

1 February 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

25X1A

SUBJECT : Memorandum from OST to a Staff  
Member of the NSC, 19 January 1971

1. I feel that you should be informed of some of the more significant points made in the subject memorandum, since I was advised that for the time being copies would not be made available to others who might have an interest. The subject memorandum is relatively comprehensive and instructive on some historical aspects of the subject.

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2. In answer to a request from the staff of the NSC, a member of Dr. David's staff was instructed to prepare a memorandum regarding the potential use on an unclassified basis of relatively low resolution photography obtainable. The prompt response apparently reflects Dr. David's desire to establish as close a rapport as possible between the two staffs on matters of mutual interest. The subject memorandum was directed to Lt. Colonel J. Merritt of the NSC Systems Analysis Staff and discussed at some length the very marginal value of the ERTS A and B which could not be expected to yield spatial imagery with ground resolutions of less than 300 feet to 500 feet. Reference was made to the minimum resolutions of at least 100 feet to 200 feet required in most fields of interest to earth resources surveys as presented by the Study of Useful Applications of Earth-Oriented Satellites, conducted at Woods Hole during 1967 and 1968 at the request of NASA. There was also some discussion of the evaluations and use already made of imagery from the U-2, and SR-71 systems by cleared individuals in some of the civilian agencies.

3.

4. The subject memorandum recommended that consideration be given to: (a) declassification of photography

(b)

and (c) announcement by NASA of its testing over the US of the 3-inch lunar frame camera to be used in photographing the moon on future Apollo flights, so that the photography might be made widely available.

5. I have no information as to whether high level action will result from this memorandum.